

July 1, 2003

VIA HAND DELIVERY AND E-MAIL

Secretary Mary Cottrell
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

RE: DTE 03-61

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

The Cape Light Compact (the "Compact") hereby requests leave from the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (the "Department") to file this brief reply to the comments submitted in DTE 03-61, regarding the extension of the Compact's municipal aggregation Default Service Pilot Project ("Pilot Project").

The Division of Energy Resources (the "DOER"), NSTAR Electric ("NSTAR"), the Attorney General, many municipalities within the Compact's territory and consumers have all submitted comments to the Department in support of the extension of the Pilot Project. In fact, the comments for DTE 03-61 have been unanimous in support of the program and in encouraging the Department to approve the continuation of the Pilot Project until December 31, 2003. Many of the comments noted that the Pilot Project has saved tens of thousands of ratepayers approximately \$2,400,000 over the first twelve months of the program. Considering that the Compact's rate under the Pilot Project is 4.798 cents for the remainder of this year, as opposed to NSTAR's Default Service rate of 6.00 cents, extending the Pilot Project will only continue these customer benefits and increase the overall savings. The Pilot Project has also helped to advance the development of the competitive market in the Commonwealth, and has generated highly valuable market experience for the transfer, service and education of large groups of customers. Furthermore, there is no indication that other competitive market alternatives will develop for the customer base served by the Pilot Project in the period for which the extension is sought.

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Therefore, in order to continue to provide the above-mentioned benefits to ratepayers, it is critical that the Department act as expeditiously as possible to approve the five-month extension of the Pilot Project.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey M. Bernstein, Esq.
Elizabeth M. Heller, Esq.

EMH/mej

cc: Kevin Penders, Hearing Officer (via hand delivery and e-mail)
Margaret T. Downey, Cape Light Compact (via first class mail)

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